

Name of Policy: Transplant Paired Kidney Exchange Policy Policy Number: 3364-140-50 Approving Officer: Chief Executive Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Medical Director, Renal Transplant Program Responsible Agent: Transplant Administration Scope: University of Toledo Medical Center		 Effective date: 10/2026 Original effective date: 10/1/2026	
Key words: Transplant, Paired, Exchange, Evaluation, Education, Assessment			
☒	New policy proposal	☐	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
☐	Major revision of existing policy	☐	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

Patients undergoing evaluation for kidney transplants and potential living kidney donation will be provided education on the option of Paired Kidney Exchange. Paired Kidney Exchange programs provide transplant opportunities for potential recipients who may have appropriate donors that do not match either by blood type, tissue match (positive crossmatches or overall antigen matching), age and/or size.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide a standardized process for potential kidney transplant recipients and potential living kidney donors to participate in Paired Kidney Exchange Programs. This policy ensures compliance with UNOS, CMS, Joint Commission, and ODH requirements.

(C) Procedure

1. Paired Kidney Donation Option

- a. All Living Donors who are found to be incompatible with their intended recipient will be offered the option of enrolling in the Paired Kidney Exchange Program.
- b. All potential donors that want to proceed with the Paired Kidney Exchange Program will undergo the Donor Evaluation process in the same manner as all living donors.
- c. Upon completion of Paired Kidney Exchanges match runs, all potential pairs are reviewed by members of the transplant team to identify recipient/donor appropriateness to optimize the number of potential transplants.
- d. All potential donors identified in Paired Kidney Exchange match runs will be contacted to determine if they are still interested in the program.

- e. The appropriate crossmatching between recipient/donor pairs will be conducted in a manner that protects the identity of all individuals. This will be done through utilization of registration numbers on all requisitions to provide unique identification for all individuals.
- f. Donor and recipient anonymity will be protected as much as possible but cannot be guaranteed

2. Paired Kidney Exchange Process

Any potential donor not matching by blood type, crossmatching, antigen mismatching, age and/or size will be offered the option of Paired Kidney Exchange if their intended recipient is actively waitlisted or appears to be close to waitlisting.

- a. The potential living donor will be notified of the Paired Kidney Exchange process and will be encouraged to speak with their intended recipient about this option.
- b. If the donor agrees to Paired Donation, they and their intended recipient will be entered into the Paired Kidney Exchange Program.
- c. Match Runs will be reviewed by Transplant Staff team members. All pairs deemed acceptable to proceed will be referred to Tissue Typing for review. Tissue Typing will complete a review and determine if the matches are appropriate to proceed.
- d. Donors in the pairs deemed appropriate to move forward will be contacted by the Living Donor Coordinator to inform them of the potential match and to review their medical history.
- e. If a match is deemed acceptable to proceed, crossmatching will be performed to determine HLA compatibility. Flow or Virtual crossmatches will be reviewed in the typical manner. Upon receipt of the results of the crossmatches of the potential matches, the potential recipients/donors will be notified of their results. Pairs that are not acceptable to proceed will remain in the Paired Kidney Exchange Program.
- f. Matches deemed acceptable to proceed will be scheduled in coordination with the transplant center(s) that are involved in the match.

3. Communication between potential pairs in Paired Kidney Exchanges

The Transplant Team can facilitate communication such as meetings or other correspondence between Paired Kidney Exchange donors and their matched recipients that participated in a Paired Kidney program exchange.

- a. All the Paired Kidney Exchange donors and recipients participating in the communication agree on the conditions of the meeting or correspondence
- b. For non OPTN Kidney Exchanges, the meeting or communication can take place at any time so long as all participating donors and recipients agree.
- c. For all first time in-person meetings, one of the following transplant staff members must be present: Donor Surgeon, Transplant Surgeon, Living Donor Coordinator, Living Donor Social Worker or Recipient Social Worker.
- d. The transplant hospital must maintain documentation of compliance (written consent) in the Paired Kidney Exchange donor's or matched recipient's medical chart.
- e. If a UPMC recipient or donor participates in an OPTN KPD exchange, we will follow policy as specified in 13.14 Communication between KPD Donors and Recipients under policy 13 (Kidney Paired Donation) in OPTN Policy
 - 1. All the KPD donors and recipients participating in the communication agree on the conditions of the meeting or correspondence

2. The meeting or communication occurs after the donor kidney recovery and transplant surgeries have been completed
3. The meeting or communication will need to be at least 2 weeks after the completed surgeries, unless there are outstanding circumstances (ex: Media release, News article, etc.)
4. For all first time in-person meetings, one of the following transplant staff members must be present: Donor Surgeon, Transplant Surgeon, Living Donor Coordinator, Living Donor Social Worker or Recipient Social Worker.
5. The transplant hospital must maintain documentation of compliance (written consent) in the Paired Kidney Exchange donor's or matched recipient's medical chart.

4. Conflict of Interest

Any individual that has a conflict of interest with a potential donor, potential recipient or the Paired Kidney Exchange program, will need to abstain from the vote/decision (of approval or decline) during the Transplant Committee presentation of the potential Paired Kidney Exchange Pair. The individual can participate in the discussion of the pair and exchange details.

Approved by: _____ Daniel Barbee Chief Executive Officer _____ Date _____ Kurt Kless Chief Nursing Officer _____ Date _____ Michael Rees, MD Medical Director, Renal Transplant Program _____ Date <i>Review/Revision Completed by:</i> <i>Transplant Surgeon</i> <i>Transplant Administrator</i> <i>Living Donor Coordinator</i>	Initial effective date: 10/1/2026 Review/Revision Date: Next review date: 10/1/2029
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